



Important College Vocabulary

Starting college is a little like visiting another country for the first time: there are new customs to learn, "rules" to observe, and vocabulary to acquire. Here are some college terms you should know:

Banner – the new NCC student self-serve information and registration system.

College Catalog (or Bulletin) – The official publication of the College, it lists the faculty, programs, course descriptions, college regulations, and requirements for graduation.

Club Hour – A time (Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.) set aside for club meetings, workshops, lectures, and other special programs. Few classes are scheduled at this time.

Credit - A unit of study that is that equivalent of approximately fifteen hours of classroom attendance. To earn an Associates degree at Nassau Community College, students must successfully complete a minimum of 66 credits.

Curriculum – An approved program of study leading to an Associate's degree

Dean's List – An honor conferred upon students in recognition of outstanding academic achievement. To qualify, a student must have completed a minimum of twelve credits per semester and attained a 3.5 (or higher) semester average with no grades of Withdrawal (W), Failure (F), Unsatisfactory (U), or Incomplete (I). Part-time students are also eligible for the Dean's List.

Degree Requirements – The courses and grade-point average required for graduation from the college.

Drop/Add Period – A time when students may make changes in their schedules. The Drop/Add period usually runs through the first week of the semester.

Elective – A course that a student chooses to take in fulfillment of his or her degree requirements. Almost every curriculum has some electives.

Grade-Point Average (GPA) – A student's academic average.

Humanities – A term that refers to courses offered by such academic departments as Art, Communications, English, Foreign Languages, Library, Music, Philosophy, Reading/Basic Education and Theater/Dance.

Incomplete – A grade assigned to a student when, at semester's end, certain course requirements have yet to be fulfilled. The Incomplete grade is assigned at the discretion of the instructor. To earn credit for the course and receive a final grade, students must complete and submit the missing work by the end of the following semester. An

Incomplete changes to an F if the work is not completed by this deadline.

Intersession – A period (approximately four weeks) between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester.

Intramurals – A campus athletic program featuring a wide range of competitive and recreational sports.

Liberal Arts – A curriculum that consists of courses from a variety of academic departments and disciplines, including English, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Luna – The annual literary magazine written and produced by students at Nassau Community College.

My NCC – a student friendly portal with all the most important information at your fingertips.

NCC I.D. – a nine character, unique value that identifies you in the banner system. Your banner I.D. will always begin with a capital “N” followed by eight numbers. (i.e. N00000000) You will receive this number in the mail when you first apply or as part of your registration information.

Noncredit courses – Courses that are designed to help students improve specific academic skills, increase their general knowledge of certain academic subjects, and be better prepared for credit classes in these areas. While noncredit courses do not carry college credit, they do count toward the number of class hours required to be a full-time student.

Office Hours – A time when faculty are available in their offices to meet with students. Faculty hold office hours each week.

Prerequisite – A course that must be successfully completed in preparation for another, usually more advanced class.

Semester – A term of the school year, approximately fifteen weeks. At Nassau, the fall semester begins in September and ends in December; the spring semester begins in January and ends in May.

Social Science – A term that refers to courses offered by department such as Economics, History/Political Science/Geography, Psychology and Sociology.

Student Activity Fee – A fee that funds a variety of campus activities: athletics, clubs, freshman orientation, intramurals and others.

Summer Session – A term of study during which students may earn college credits. There are three summer sessions.

Syllabus – A document that lists a course’s requirements (readings, exams, due dates for papers, projects, etc.) as well as the instructor’s name, telephone number, and office hours. Most instructors distribute their syllabus (also known as a course outline) at the first or second class meeting.

Transcript – A list of the courses a student has taken at the college and the grades he or she has received in them.

Every student is mailed a transcript shortly after the end of each semester.

Vignette - The weekly newspaper written and edited by the students of Nassau Community College.

Winterim – A three week term of study scheduled during the intersession.

Withdrawal (W) – A grade assigned to a student when he or she (a) is removed from a course by the instructor or (b) elects not to complete a course. To withdraw officially, a student must file a Drop/Add form, signed by the instructor, with the Registrar's Office. For more information about the College's Withdrawal policy, see the College catalog.